



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## News Release

Providence VA Medical Center  
830 Chalkstone Ave  
Providence, RI 02908

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Engaging Community Clergy to Support Veterans**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The VA Office of Veterans Experience, the Veterans Health Administration's Office of Rural Health, and the National VA Chaplain Center have partnered with the Providence VA Medical Center to provide a training program for community clergy, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, in the 5th floor auditorium of the Providence VAMC main hospital building, 830 Chalkstone Ave, Providence, R.I. Check-in starts at 9:30 a.m.

Service members from the National Guard, reserves and active duty returning from deployment, and those who have left military service, must reintegrate into civilian life after arriving home. The challenges of reintegration, coupled with issues that may be tied to their service, can result in problems that go unrecognized or develop slowly. When these issues become critical, Veterans often seek support and information from people they know, including their local clergy and members of the faith community. To assist local clergy in supporting Veterans in their community, the National VA Chaplain Center joined with VHA Office of Rural Health to create the Community Clergy Training Program. The program's goal is to provide clergy and faith community members with the tools they need to provide accurate information and support when Veterans or their families seek assistance.

Co-sponsored by St. Luke's Parish, of Barrington, R.I., this event, "Pastoral Care with Veterans and Families," is the second of four community clergy training modules being held at the Providence VAMC. The first module, "On Military Culture and the Wounds of War" was held June 15, 2019. Dates for the remaining modules, "Mental Health Services and Referrals," and "Building Community Partnerships," will be announced. The programs are free and lunch will be provided. Clergy-in-training, laypeople and other members from the faith community may also attend. Learn, build relationships and bring back the knowledge to support your local Veterans and their families. Interested parties should contact Chaplain Rotunda East at 401-273-7100 ext. 2865 or [rotunda.east@va.gov](mailto:rotunda.east@va.gov) for more information.

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